

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

---Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

---Claim 12. (Previously amended) A cross-linked hyaluronic acid derivative according to Claim 18 wherein the hydroxy groups of said hyaluronic acid derivative are sulphated or hemisuccinylated---.

---Claims 13 and 14. (Cancelled)

---Claim 15. (Previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition useful as (a) a substitute for synovial fluid in the treatment of osteoarthritic conditions and for vitreous humor in the treatment of pathologies and side effects connected in ophthalmic surgery; (b) as a base for artificial tears formulation; (c) as a controlled release matrix of a medicament; and (d) as a healing and anti-adhesive agent, in which the principal active ingredient is a cross-linked hyaluronic acid derivative according to Claim 18.

---Claims 16 and 17. (Cancelled)

---Claim 18. (Currently amended) A hyaluronic acid derivative comprising cross-linked molecules of hyaluronic acid obtained by the reaction of the carboxylic acid groups of a hyaluronic acid wherein the cross-linkage occurs only through amide bonds between carboxy groups of the hyaluronic acid and the amino groups of a diamine of the formula  $\text{NH}_2\text{-A-NH}_2$  wherein A is a linear unsubstituted  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$  chain or a polyoxyalkylene chain of the formula  $[(\text{CH}_2\text{-O-CH}_2)_2]_m$  wherein m is an interger from 2-10.

---Claim 19. (Cancelled)